

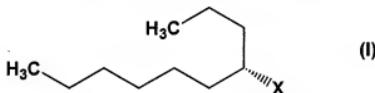
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A process for producing (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid, which comprises:

subjecting (2R)-2-hexyloxirane to a two-carbon adding reaction with ring-opening reaction, followed by a protecting reaction of to protect the hydroxyl group with a removable protective group by reacting the hydroxyl group with a sulfonyl chloride, a phosphoryl chloride or an acid anhydride to convert it to obtain a compound represented by formula (I):

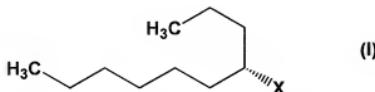


wherein X represents an optionally protected a hydroxyl group which is protected by a removable protective group, and then

subjecting the compound to a one-carbon adding reaction to convert it to obtain (2R)-2-propyloctanamide, followed by recrystallization and hydrolysis.

2. (original): A process for producing (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid, which comprises hydrolyzing (2R)-2-propyloctanamide.

3. (currently amended): A process for producing (2R)-2-propyloctanamide, which comprises subjecting a compound represented by formula (I):

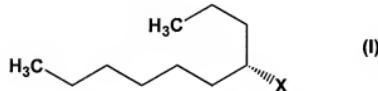


wherein X represents the same meaning as in claim 1 a hydroxyl group which is protected by a removable protective group,
to a one-carbon adding reaction.

4. (withdrawn): (2R)-2-Propyloctanamide.

5. (withdrawn): Substantially pure (2R)-2-propyloctanamide.

6. (withdrawn): A compound represented by formula (I):



wherein X represents an optionally protected hydroxyl group.

7. (withdrawn): The compound according to claim 6, wherein X is p-toluenesulfonyloxy or methanesulfonyloxy.